

EFFECTIVE

Immediately.

SUBJECT

Housing referrals for older youth.

**HOUSING
RESOURCE
REFERRAL**

All youth age 18 and older without an identified housing situation at the time of foster care closure **must** be referred to a housing resource. Housing resources include homeless youth/runaway contractors and other local housing resources.

The foster care caseworker must document the referral in SWSS-FAJ, in the Parent-Agency Treatment Plan module by selecting the applicable service types (either HO - Housing or ILMH - IL/Mentoring Housing) and appropriate service provider. A hard copy must be kept in the case record.

**Homeless Youth/
Runaway
Contractors-
Transitional Living
Program**

For youth being referred to the homeless youth/runaway program, the foster care worker must complete the DHS-956, Foster Youth Housing Referral, and send it to the local homeless youth/runaway contractor. The contractor must make attempts to contact the youth within 5 days of receiving the referral, and must document all efforts. A list of all homeless youth/runaway contractors can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44293---,00.html>. The list includes contact information and counties they serve.

Homeless youth/runaway contractors are required to serve both homeless and runaway youth. Former foster youth are a specified population for the homeless youth services, through their transitional living program. Contractors are required to ensure 25 percent of their clients are youth that have transitioned from foster care.

Youth that have a current open foster care case are not eligible for services under the homeless youth/runaway contract. To facilitate a successful transition, the contractor may meet with the youth, the caseworker, and the other identified service providers, as agreed to by the youth, for up to two months prior to case closure and the youth's transition from foster care to the transitional living program. The housing plan and the youth's consent must be documented in the final Updated Service Plan (USP)/Permanent Ward Service Plan (PWSP).

Youth that are absent without legal permission (AWOLP) are not eligible for services under the homeless youth/runaway contract, as their foster care case is still open. Once the foster care case is closed, the youth may be eligible at that time.

Case closure for youth over the age of 17

A caseworker must not close a foster care case for a youth 17 or older and refer to a homeless youth/runaway contractor or other local housing resource unless **all** of the following steps have been completed:

- The foster care caseworker has documented why the case could not remain open for services until the age of 20, based on FOM 722-15 within the USP/ PWSP.
- The foster care caseworker diligently pursued multiple living arrangements or housing options that were not successful. The caseworker thoroughly documented efforts and reasons other placement options were not viable in the placement section of the USP/PWSP. This must include reasons why independent living with case management services was not an option.
- The foster care caseworker has documented contact with the homeless youth/runaway contractor verifying an opening for the youth upon case closure.

Reason: All youth leaving the system at age 18 or older, who do not have an identified housing situation, are required to be referred to a local housing resource according to Dwayne B v. Granholm.

Communication Plan: Fact sheet.

**MANUAL
MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTIONS**